

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knoche (U.S. 1,165,785). Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Facey et al. (U.S. 6,003,210) in view of Pasbrig (U.S. 4,889,320). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Facey in view of Pasbrig and further in view of Natkins (U.S. 6,131,969).

Claims 1 through 13, inclusive, have been canceled. Page 4, paragraph 7 of the specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 14 has been extensively amended to further clarify Applicant's invention and a new claim 19 has been added. Claim 19 is similar to canceled claim 3 and is added to show that in one embodiment of the present invention, a segment of cable passes freely through one bore of a two bore connector.

Referring to Facey et al (U.S. 6,003,210) and Pasbrig (U.S. 4,889,320) as they relate to amended claim 14 and dependent claims 15 - 19, it will be seen that amended claim 14 clearly distinguishes structurally over any proper combination of Facey and Pasbrig. In the combination of Facey and Pasbrig, the Examiner utilizes Facey to show a releasable cable grip but states that Facey utilizes a tool to release the cable grip. The Examiner utilizes Pasbrig to show a wedge means having a release lever.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite, "said spring that spring loads said wedge being positioned axially within said channel," and has further been amended to define the slot through which the release lever passes as being parallel to said channel "and to said coil spring within said channel." Since Facey does not show release levers, but rather depends upon a tool to release the wedges, the release levers and slots through which they pass must be supplied by Pasbrig in the combination that rejects claim 14. As shown in Figures 8a and 8b of Pasbrig, the slots are not parallel to the springs of Pasbrig, but rather the spring parallels the main passage for

the rope while the slot 20 is at an acute angle to the rope passage. As shown in Figure 8b of Pasbrig, this arrangement causes the spring to be bent from its axial position when the wedge is retracted from the rope. Such a bending weakens the effect of the spring. Applicant's amended claim 14 clearly distinguishes over the combination of Facey and Pasbrig, both structurally and patentably.

Applicant also questions the propriety of combining Facey and Pasbrig as a matter of patent law. In order to properly combine references to reject a claimed invention, the references themselves must suggest the desirability of the combination. See: *In re Laskowski*, 10 USPQ 2d. 1397 (CAFC, 1989) and the cases cited therein. As set forth in *In re Laskowski*, the "mere fact that the prior art could be so modified would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification." As further stated in *In re Laskowski*, "there must be some logical reason apparent from positive, concrete evidence of record which justifies a combination of primary and secondary references"; and still further, "obviousness cannot be established by combining pieces of prior art absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination."

In the present application, the Facey et al. reference teaches against the combination with Pasbrig since Facey already has a tool to release the wedges. The Pasbrig reference contains nothing that would suggest utilizing it in a housing with two bores as taught by Facey. It is only Applicant's own disclosure that suggests a hindsight collection of references to reject the claims.

With respect to claim 19, Applicant distinguishes the use of a releasable cable grip connector that has one free passage and one passage containing a gripping unit from the Natkins (U.S. 6,131,969) reference. In Natkins one cable segment is permanently locked within one channel. (See abstract lines 1 – 4 and specification Col. 3, lines 13 – 15). In Applicant's invention (Figs. 1 – 4) the bore 14a permits a cable segment to pass unrestrained through it.

Applicant's counsel has reviewed the prior art cited but not applied by the Examiner and submits that the claims as amended are clearly patentable over those patents taken individually or in any proper combination.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application in view of the extensive amendment to claim 14, which also amends dependent claims 15 – 19, and the cancelation of claims 1 – 13. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's patent attorney at 412-653-1542 if she believes that a telephone conversation will further the efforts to find allowable subject matter in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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**ANOTHER VERSION OF CLAIM 14 MARKED UP
TO SHOW CHANGES TO THAT CLAIM**



(Amended) A releasable cable grip connector for locking a cable segment within a housing comprising:

a housing having a first bore therethrough to receive a first cable segment
and a second bore therethrough parallel to said first bore to receive
a second cable segment, said first and second bores being of a
diameter to permit said first and second cable segments to pass
freely through said bores, said first and second bores being straight
throughout the extent of said housing;
a channel within said [body] housing disposed to one side of said first bore and
acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into said first bore;
wedge means positioned within said housing in said channel and spring loaded
by a coil spring to bias said wedge means against said cable segment
within said first bore to wedge said cable segment against said first bore
and thereby grip said cable segment, said coil spring that spring loads said
wedge being positioned axially within said channel;
a slot in said housing extending parallel to said channel and to said coil spring
within said channel and communicating with said channel;
a release lever fixed to said wedge means and extending through said slot to
the outside of said housing whereby said release lever may be utilized
to move said wedge means away from said cable segment and permit
movement of said cable segment relative to said first bore.